REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2006 for the above-captioned application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Table 3 has been amended to correct a typographical error where 75 ppm H_3PO_4 was erroneously referred to as 75 %. This is evidently an error, and the correction is consistent with the units in Table 1.

Claims 18, 19, 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. These claims have been amended to overcome the potential ambiguity.

Claims 1-10, 18-28 and 35-38 stand rejected as anticipated by "Gallucci '792." It is believed that the Examiner is referring to US Patent No. 5,814,712 and this response is made on this basis. Should this assumption be incorrect, clarification is requested.

Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that the first and second quencher are present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.05 weight percent. This amendment is supported on Page 20 of the application as filed. This amendment highlights an important difference between the composition of the present invention and that of the Gallucci reference. Although there are similarities in the materials of Gallucci and those of the claimed invention,[1] they are used for different purposes, and hence are used in different amounts. Specifically, in the present invention, the epoxide is used as one of two quencher components. In contrast, in Gallucci, the glycidyl ester polymer is used as an impact modifier at a concentration range of 0.5 to 40 weight %. (Col. 3, lines 4-6) and glycidyl ester impact modifier at a level of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight (Col. 5, line 67 - Col. 6 line 1). Thus, there is no overlap between the ranges of the present invention and the Gallucci disclosure and no anticipation, and no suggestion of the present invention.

Furthermore, the difference in function of the epoxide in the present invention means that in the absence of additives to intentionally introduce visual effects, the composition is optically clear. (See pending claims 21 and 22, and) Persons skilled in the art would know that addition of large amounts of impact modifiers as contemplated in Gallucci would impair optical

---

[1] In reality, the materials are different since the epoxy functional polymers used as quenchers have low molecular weights (See ¶ 0036) as compared to those used as impact modifiers.

properties. Further, as reflected in the addition of carbon black to the example compositions, Gallucci was not concerned with optical clarity.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-9 and 18-28 as anticipated or obvious over JP 04309552. In making this rejection, the Examiner relies on a secondary reference, (Kakinuma '821) for a teaching of the material used in JP '552. In the abstract of JP '552 the material referred to is CP-50 M. In the office action, the Examiner refers to CP-50 S. Kakinuma refers to both CP-50 M and CP-50 S but the composition of each is not clear from the description. In this regard it is noted that US Application 20020012801 describes CP-50 M as "methyl methacrylate and glycidyl methacrylate copolymer (50%/50% by weight) (MMA-GMA copolymer)" (i.e. no styrene"). Thus, it is not clear what the material used in JP '552 is, and whether it meets the limitations of the present claims.

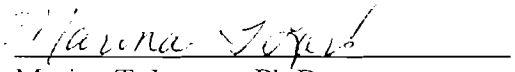
Moreover, there is no overlap between the amount of quencher as recited in the present application, and the amount of "epoxy-group-containing vinyl copolymers" in JP '552. The abstract recites the amount of these materials as 0.1 to 40 %. In addition, the disphosphite that the examiner states is present is shown at a level of 0.5 parts (%), and thus is by itself in an amount far in excess of the amount allowed for the two quenchers in the compositions of the invention.

Finally, it should be observed that the function of the CP-50 M in JP '552 is as a matting agent, that is an agent that creates a matte finish on the surface of the material. This would also be contrary to the ability of the quenchers of the present invention to maintain high transmission, since the reflectivity of a matte finish necessarily decreases transmission.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-9 and 18-30 over the combination of Gallucci or JP '552 with Nagai EP 774491. The secondary reference is cited for a teaching of catalysts to induce transesterification and resulting transparency. The Examiner has not explained why transparency would be desired in the compositions of the primary references, and therefore has not made a prima facie case for the combination of these references. Furthermore, this rejection suffers from the same deficiencies discussed above with respect to the primary references.

For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Marina T. Larson, Ph.D
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32038

(970) 262-1800